

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3987

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

UNCLAS ALGIERS 0568

PARIS FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON AND AMBASSADOR PARKER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (ATHERTON, ALFRED L. AND ROBINSON, CHARLES W.), AG

SUBJECT: VISIT TO ALGERIA BY UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON AND
ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON

1. GOA'S DAILY NEWSPAPER EL MOUDJAHID ON MARCH 2 AND 3 REPORTED
FOLLOWING COMMENTS BY UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON AND ASSISTANT
SECRETARY ATHERTON ON THEIR DEPARTURES FROM ALGERIA:

2. ATHERTON ARTICLE: ARTICLE STATES THAT AT CONCLUSION OF HIS
BRIEF VISIT AND JUST BEFORE DEPARTURE FROM ALGIERS ASSISTANT
SECRETARY ATHERTON EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION WITH HIS VISIT TO
ALGIERS. HE SAID VISIT COINCIDED WITH THAT OF UNDER SECRETARY
OF STATE FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, AND THAT AT HIS MEETINGS WITH
PRINCIPAL ALGERIANS A SERIES OF PROBLEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST HAD
BEEN ADDRESSED, INCLUDING BILATERAL RELATIONS AND VARIOUS QUESTIONS
OF REGIONAL INTEREST. HE SAID THAT DURING THE AUDIENCE WITH
PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS HAD ALSO BEEN DISCUSSED.
IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE US POLICY TOWARD THE
WESTERN SAHARA MR. ATHERTON SAID "THIS IS A PROBLEM WHICH
SHOULD BE RESOLVED ON BASIS OF NEGOTIATIONS AMONG REGIONAL
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PARTIES WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERVENTION." HE WENT ON TO SAY

"I SHOULD LIKE TO STATE PRECISELY THAT THE UNITED STATES IS THE BEARER OF NO PROPOSITIONS AND DOES NOT SEEK TO PLAY A

MEDIATORY ROLE." THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY ONE SENTENCE STATING THAT QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE MIDDLE EAST WERE ALSO DISCUSSED AND THAT MR. ATHERTON WAS PLANNING TO CONTINUE ON TO RABAT TO DISCUSS VARIOUS SUBJECTS.

3. ROBINSON ARTICLE: ARTICLE ANNOUNCES THAT UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON LEFT ALGIERS EARLY MARCH 2 AND WAS BADE FAREWELL AT AIRPORT BY ALGERIAN DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND AMBASSADOR PARKER. IT STATES THAT DURING HIS VISIT UNDER SECRETARY MET WITH PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE AND SEVERAL PRINCIPAL ALGERIANS -- PARTICULARLY WITH MR. BELAID ABDESSELAM. MR. ROBINSON SAID THAT WITH RESPECT TO RESULTS OF HIS VISIT THAT IT SHOULD PERMIT BETTER APPROACH FOR DEVELOPMENT OF "MORE COOPERATIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONS." HE INDICATED THAT DURING HIS DISCUSSIONS HE HAD PARTICULARLY DISCUSSED BILATERAL ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS, AND SAID THESE RELATIONS WERE DESTINED TO DEVELOP AND EXPAND. LYNE

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